

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The following remarks are submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed May 14, 2007, setting a three-month shortened statutory period for response ending August 14, 2007. With this Amendment, claims 1, 7, 9, 15, 16 and 18 have been amended, and claims 6, 14, 17, 19, and 20 have been cancelled. Claims 1-5, 7-13, 15, 16, and 18 remain pending in the Application. Reconsideration, examination and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b) Rejections

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8 through 10, 12, 13, 16, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Dorison et al.* (U.S. Patent 5,478,407) and *Stein* (EP 0373234).

Applicants respectfully assert that neither the *Dorison et al.* nor *Stein* references disclose or suggests each and every element of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 8 through 10, 12, 13, and 16. However, in order to move prosecution along in this case, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 9, and 16 by adding the elements from allowable claims 6, 14, and 17 respectively. Applicants believe these amendments overcome the Examiner's rejection under §102(b). Accordingly, since claims 2-5, 7, and 8 depend from claim 1, claims 10-13 and 15 depend from claim 9, and claim 18 depends from claim 16, and each dependent claim includes additional significant elements, Applicants believe these claims are also patentable over the cited references.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejections

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 3 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Dorison et al.* in view of *Stein*.

For reasons similar to that discussed above, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 3 and 11 which are dependent from claims 1 and 9 respectively, and include additional significant elements, are also patentable over the cited references.

Conclusion

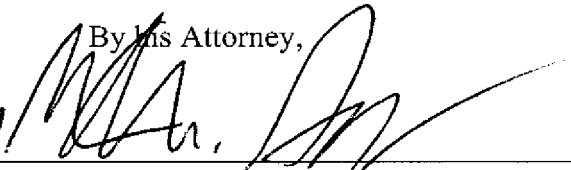
Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for allowance, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance in due course is requested. If a telephone conference might be of assistance, please contact the undersigned attorney at (612) 677-9050.

Respectfully submitted,

STEVEN CONGER

By his Attorney,

Date:

June 05, 2007 
Glenn M. Seager, Reg. No. 36,926
CROMPTON, SEAGER & TUFTE, LLC
1221 Nicollet Avenue, Suite 800
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403-2420
Tel: (612) 677-9050